



1/31 2007

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 10/082,326 Confirmation No. 3456
Applicant : I. URATANI et al.
Filed : February 26, 2002
Title : STORAGE SYSTEM
TC/AU : 2141
Examiner : K. D. Shingles
Docket No. : NIT-332
Customer No.: 24956

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

January 31, 2007

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR §1.97 & 1.98

Sir:

In the above-identified application, Applicants are submitting for the Examiner's consideration a copy of a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application dated December 26, 2006, and copies of references cited in the communication, as listed on the attached form equivalent to Form PTO-1449.

This information disclosure statement is being submitted before the mailing date of any of a final action under § 1.113, a notice of allowance under § 1.311, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and

each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was first cited in the communication from the foreign patent office in the counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement;

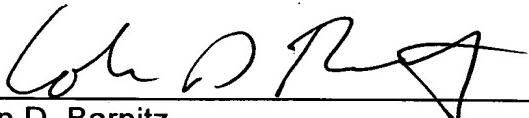
Accordingly, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(c)(1), no additional fee is required for the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

Each reference not in the English language cited on the attached form equivalent to PTO-Form 1449 includes an attached English-language abstract as a concise explanation of the relevance of that reference, as it is presently understood. Accordingly, the requirements of 37 CFR 1.98(a)(3) for providing a concise explanation of the relevance of references not in the English language are satisfied.

It is respectfully requested that this information disclosure statement be considered by the Examiner.

Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the deposit account of Mattingly, Stanger, Malur & Brundidge, Deposit Account No. 50-1417 (referencing attorney docket no. NIT-332) please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
MATTINGLY, STANGER, MALUR & BRUNDIDGE, P.C.



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Date: January 31, 2007



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SHEET 1 OF 1

FORM PTO-1449 U.S. Department of
Commerce (Rev. 4/92) Patent and Trademark
Office

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(Use several sheets if necessary)

ATTY. DOCKET NO.

NIT-332

SERIAL NO.

10/082,326

APPLICANT

URATANI et al.

FILING DATE

February 26, 2002

GROUP

2141

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING D. IF APPROP

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	ABSTRACT
		H11-312058	09.11.2000	JAPAN			YES
		2000-112666	21.04.2000	JAPAN			

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

EXAMINER: Initial if citation is considered, draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

(Form PTO-1449 [6-4])